

**Virginia Department of Health  
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #29  
October 16, 2006**

**WORLDWIDE UPDATE.**

- One case was added to the World Health Organization's list of confirmed human cases of H5N1 influenza this week. The case is in an adult from Egypt who slaughtered and defeathered ducks out of a flock which developed signs of illness. The total human case count is now 253, including 148 deaths.

**VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office**

- Through well received and publicized preparation efforts with local Schools, Pittsylvania-Danville health District Epidemiologist coordinated with the Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee to find a family in the health district who has prepared or are preparing for Pandemic Influenza. At the request of the U.S. Department of Education, this family will be interviewed and the interview will be televised nationwide. The show will be aired 17 October 2006 from 8-9pm EST on the PBS station and will be available to 90% of U.S. homes.
- Planning continues for the Statewide PanFlu Exercise “FLUEX ‘06” scheduled to be conducted on October 23-24.
- The Virginia Association of School Superintendents will be sponsoring a “Preparing for Pandemic” Conference for Superintendents, School Board Members, School / Division Staff and Community Health Personnel in Charlottesville on Nov 8. Visit: <http://vass.edschool.virginia.edu/homepages/calendar.htm>
- Deputy Commissioner EP&R spoke at the Homeland Defense Journal conference "Preparing for Pandemic Influenza" on October 11, 2006, held at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. Speakers at the conference included Dr. Anthony Fauci discussing "Scientific and Public Health Challenges" as well as a number of other federal officials and medical experts discussing preparations for a possible influenza pandemic. Dr. Kaplowitz presented state planning efforts as part of a panel discussing local, state and federal preparedness efforts and roles. The conference was attended by over 250 people from throughout the United States, from both public and private sectors.
- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator will give a presentation on Continuity of Operations Planning in a Pandemic at the Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference.
- Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Preparedness and Response and VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator have been invited to give a PanFlu Planning Presentation at the Virginia Association of Counties' Annual Conference.
- VDH State Emergency Planning Coordinator is coordinating with VDEM, Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) and Virginia Municipal League (VML) representatives to develop an agenda for a pandemic flu workshop on December 1 for local officials.
- 12 local and regional PanFlu Summits have been conducted. Upcoming Summit is scheduled in the Near SW Region on October 31, postponed from August 22.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

## VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

### **VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports**

- **Central Region**
  - The Regional Team participated in a Risk Communications Workshop on Pandemic Influenza, which was hosted by the Richmond chapter of the Public Relations Society of America and organized by the Central Region PIO.
  - Central Region Medical Consultant delivered a Pandemic Influenza presentation to the regional chapter of the American Industrial Hygiene Association.
  - Medical Consultant delivered a Pandemic Influenza presentation to the Public Relations Society of America, Richmond chapter.
- **Eastern Region**
  - Trainer and Administrative Assistant are working with the Virginia Beach Health Department to coordinate their district pandemic influenza workshop.
  - Medical Consultant gave a presentation on Pandemic Influenza Planning at the Virginia Risk and Insurance Management Society/Public Risk Management Association Combined Educational Conference.
  - Medical Consultant gave a pandemic influenza presentation to the Hampton Women's Club.
- **Southwest Region**
  - Planner presented a Pandemic Influenza Status Report to The Va. Society of Respiratory Therapists (26 Facility Respiratory Managers and Supervisors) at their annual retreat at the Inn at Virginia Tech. The presentation included a status of the planning efforts to date in the Commonwealth and a panel discussion with Marc Winstead from UVA Hospital regarding PanFlu and anticipated challenges

### **VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports**

- **Central Virginia**
  - Planner and director are working with Centra Health (local hospital system) to re-establish working/planning relationship with new hospital personnel. Hospital had recent significant personnel changes that impacted our planning partnership.
  - Planner continued work with city personnel for the Oct 28 flu vaccine dispensing site drill as part of FLUEX'06
  - District staff met with jurisdiction PIOs to continue to develop communication plans for PH emergencies. This meeting included a meet and greet for the new SW Regional PIO.
- **Chesapeake**
  - Provided critical review of Chesapeake Public Schools proposed Pandemic Influenza Response Plan
  - Working with City Emergency Management, a memorandum signed by the City Manager was released inviting all department heads to participate in a second PanFlu related EOC TTX on October 24 in conjunction with FLUEX '06. This TTX will include a shift change for EOC representatives.
  - Invited the president of the Hampton Roads Medical Group Management Association (MGMA) to recommend a representative from Chesapeake to join our Pandemic Influenza Task Force.
- **Chesterfield**

- Planner and Health Educator provided sessions on personal emergency preparedness and PanFlu, respectively, to class participants at the Lifelong Learning Institute in Midlothian.
- Planner provided POD training, to include info on FLUEX '06, to members of the District's Citizen Reserve Corps. Most of the attendees will be participating in the Dispensing Site the District will be holding during the exercise.
- Continued working with Chesterfield County in planning for FLUEX '06.
- **Chickahominy**
  - Continued the coordination for the Goochland Schools hand cleanliness program.
  - New PanFlu Coordinator orientation continues.
  - Preparing for the Goochland LEPC PanFlu meeting next week.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
  - Planner distributed 55 invitations to partners in community health and emergency response organizations to participate in FLUEX '06.
- **Fairfax**
  - Hired a limited term (11 months) PanFlu communications specialist and community outreach coordinator.
  - Director and Deputy attended national conference on Pandemic Influenza Preparedness focused on federal plans with an emphasis on non-pharmacologic interventions. Conference included White House, CDC, NIH, representatives.
  - Pandemic influenza training update for staff at Joseph Willard Treatment Center.
  - Director gave PanFlu presentation at the Greater Washington Board of Trade meeting.
  - Deputy Director, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and Emergency Planner met with county COOP coordinators; discussed incorporating PanFlu specific measures in county COOP efforts.
  - Hosting a workshop/table-top exercise as part of the FLUEX '06 state-wide exercise. The workshop will take place October 24 in Rowland Conference Center 0:00 am to 2:00 pm. The workshop will consist of a 90 minute presentation on Incident Action Planning (IAP) followed by a two and a half-hour exercise to develop an IAP relevant to a Pandemic Influenza outbreak in the NCR region. This is essential training for all Health Department AOC & AEOC staff.
- **Henrico**
  - Continued to coordinate with Henrico County agencies on planning for November 4th Mass Vaccination Exercise, now entitled Operation HEALTH (Henrico's Emergency Action Local Test for Health).
  - Planner provided a community presentation on Emergency Preparedness to St. Mary's Woods Independent Living Center.
  - Epidemiologist sent weekly Avian Flu update to healthcare partners in the community
  - Health Director and Planner provided a work session presentation to the Henrico Board of Supervisors on Pandemic Flu planning and mass distribution including an overview of the Nov 4th community drill.
  - Director and Nurse Manager provided an infectious disease and Nov 4th drill update to the Henrico School Health Advisory Board.
- **Lenowisco**
  - Health Director, District Planner and Epidemiologist met with local media and law enforcement personnel at the Media Meeting in Bristol. Pandemic Flu was a discussion item on the agenda.

- District Planner met with the 911 coordinator and County Administrator in Lee County to discuss EOP development and also provided information on Pandemic Flu (dispensing site drill).
- District Planner and Epidemiologist participated in Coal Slurry Impoundment Drill at MECC. This drill was a cooperative effort for disaster preparedness. Discussion from the drill included shelter operations, evacuations, and multi-agency coordination. Agencies represented included DMME, Social Services, VDH, VDEM, OSM, law enforcement, fire and rescue, schools and EOC.
- District Planner met in Bristol with HRSA members. Pandemic Flu preparations and upcoming drills were discussed.
- **Loudoun**
  - Various PanFlu Exercise updates presented at the Loudoun Law Enforcement Chief's Meeting.
  - Met with 20 representatives from the Lovettsville Ruritans to discuss Code Flu 06 and local PanFlu activities.
  - Met with the Assistant to the Loudoun County Administrator, the Manager and Deputy Manager of the Loudoun County Office of Emergency Management to refine development of the Loudoun County Pandemic Influenza Plan.
  - Participated in a teleconference with Washington Quarantine Station and VDH Northern Region Office regarding logistics of the quarantine portion of FLUEX 06 to be conducted on 10/26.
  - Met with officials at Patrick Henry College to provide input for their PanFlu planning process.
  - Consulted with First Mt Olive Baptist Church, Leesburg regarding participation in their health fair with PanFlu presentations.
  - Invited to attend a Spanish Basic Emergency Preparedness talk "Preparing your Family for Emergencies/Preparando a su Familia para Emergencias" in collaboration with the Family Education Groups that are coordinated by INMED - Partnerships for Children/MotherNet Loudoun.
  - Conducted monthly county Task Force meeting. Established 3 work groups to provide feedback for portions of the county plan dealing with alternate care sites, non-medical support services, and pharmaceutical interventions. Presentations on the progress of pandemic influenza planning from the Town of Leesburg, Loudoun County Public Schools, and the Loudoun County Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Substance Abuse Services were featured.
  - Final After Action Phase I PanFlu Activity Report presented.
  - Joined the Loudoun County Fire/Rescue Services and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office in exhibiting at the Leisure World Health Fair (senior citizens retirement community in Lansdowne, VA). Approximately 150 Leisure World residents attended PanFlu, Code Flu 06, and MRC presentations.
  - Addressed the Loudoun Public Middle Schools Principal's meeting to provide a PanFlu presentation followed by the school's review of its PanFlu plan. Attended by 65 principals representing 76 Loudoun schools.
  - Presented a second PanFlu presentation followed by the school's review of its PanFlu plan to all elementary school principals of the Loudoun Public Schools. Fifty-six elementary school principals attended.
  - Provided a PanFlu presentation to 12 Loudoun animal control and animal shelter personnel in Hamilton, VA.

- Scheduled six pandemic influenza presentations for: Loudoun County high school principals, the NEW Corporation, Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, the Miles LeHane Company, and INOVA Loudoun Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.
- Briefed Loudoun Board of Supervisors Human Services Committee and Emergency Management Executive Committee on PanFlu planning and Code Flu 06 exercise.
- Participated in a Leesburg Business Networking International breakfast meeting, advised the group of 25 business people of the pandemic influenza presentation available from the Loudoun County Health Department and the importance of getting started in pandemic influenza planning for businesses and families. Distributed handout materials on pandemic influenza, the upcoming pandemic POD exercise and the need for volunteer patients, and the Loudoun MRC.
- Scheduled a static pandemic influenza and MRC display table and two pandemic influenza presentations for the upcoming October 14 Emergency Preparedness Fair sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Ashburn, VA.
- Scheduled a pandemic influenza presentation for the Loudoun Planters Club, in Leesburg.
- Provided a PanFlu presentation and CodeFlu 06 Exercise briefing to 33 members of the Historic District Residents Association of Leesburg.
- Provided a PanFlu presentation, along with infection prevention and control and Lyme disease training, and information on the upcoming CodeFlu 06 to approximately 50 members of the Town of Leesburg water and sewer utility department.
- Invited to provide PanFlu educational materials for the Loudoun County Customer Service Forum scheduled for Oct 4th & 5th in the Government Center, Leesburg, VA.
- Provided a presentation regarding the local health district and Washington Quarantine Station collaboration in preparedness and response in enacting the quarantine process to 80 attendees of the annual APIC-VA (Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology-VA) conference.
- PanFlu Presentation provided for members of the Leesburg EMS Council.
- Presented a PanFlu talk to staff of the Leisure World retirement community, Lansdowne, VA.
- Attended the Purcellville Police Chief's meeting to present an overview of the Loudoun Health District POD Plan, the CodeFlu 06 Exercise, and to provide pertinent pandemic flu handouts and contact information.
- Conducted a meeting of Code Flu 06 Evaluation Planners.
- Conducted a meeting to plan media and press release strategy for the day of the exercise.
- Prepared approximately 2800 personal infection prevention and control kits to be provided to volunteer patients in the October 21 pandemic influenza medication dispensing exercise (CodeFlu 06).
- Participated in ESSENCE (Syndromic Surveillance) exercise from 10/3 to 10/6 – to test communications and surveillance skills.
- Interviews scheduled for candidates for new position to assist with Phase II grant activities.
- Provided Loudoun County Public School system officials with electronic copy of English and Spanish versions of "Information to Help You with Pandemic Flu" for inclusion in a school newsletter to be sent home with 50,000+ Loudoun County students.

- Local PanFlu messages, seasonal flu messages, and Code Flu 06 Exercise featured in local newspapers, including: The Washington Post, Loudoun Times Mirror, and Loudoun Independent.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
  - Pandemic Influenza Educator spoke with members of the Payneton United Methodist Church about Pandemic Influenza planning.
  - Pandemic Influenza Educator presented Pandemic Influenza information to the Division of Child Support Enforcement. Approximately 44 attended.
  - Pandemic Influenza Educator presented Pandemic Influenza information to the Danville-Pittsylvania county Regional Dental Association.
  - District Epidemiologist presented Pandemic Influenza planning information to the Glenwood Elementary PTA. Approximately 90 attended.
  - District Epidemiologist coordinated with the Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee to find a family in the health district who has prepared or are preparing for Pandemic Influenza. At the request of the U.S. Department of Education, this family will be interviewed and the interview will be televised nationwide. The show will be aired 17 October 2006 from 8-9pm EST on the PBS station and will be available to 90% of U.S. homes.
- **Prince William**
  - Attending pandemic meetings to prepare for surge capacity and other issues that may arise during a pandemic outbreak.
  - Conducted a Pandemic Influenza Tabletop this morning during the District Meeting. All staff attended was briefed on the issues pertaining to pandemic influenza and their responsibility
  - Received pandemic preparedness backpacks to give to special needs population. An update will be provided in a future Pandemic Flu Report.
  - Director and Planner met with Prince William Hospital and Potomac Hospital to discuss alternative health care sites during a pandemic. A decision was made to include City and County Emergency Planners to decide on roles, strategies, risk communication and other relevant topics.
- **Rappahannock-Rapidan**
  - Met with both local hospitals regarding plans for FLUEX '06.
  - Planner met with two county Emergency Managers regarding plans for FLUEX '06.
  - Mailed flyers to first responders for mass vaccination clinic.
  - NW Region Industrial Hygienist gave class for local first responders on "Essentials of a Respiratory Protection Class".
  - Attended health fair at community college and distributed materials on pandemic flu and personal preparedness.
  - Distributed FLUEX '06 Exercise messages to community partners who plan to participate in the drill.
- **Roanoke City / Alleghany**
  - Health Educator and Emergency Planner met with Roanoke City Emergency Manager and Regional Director of Refugee and Immigration Services for an information sharing session.
  - Health Educator and Emergency Planner presented on seasonal and pandemic flu and all-hazards planning to the VAHA (Virginia Adult Home Association) at the Holiday Inn in Roanoke.
  - Health Educator met with administrators at Hollins University to discuss pandemic flu planning.

- **Thomas Jefferson (Charlottesville Area)**
  - Planner and PanFlu Health Educator wrote article for local newspaper on pandemic influenza and October exercise. Article will run 10/22/06.
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  - Health Director, planner, and PanFlu plan coordinator participated in separate PanFlu table top exercises with department heads for city of Charlottesville and county of Albemarle
  - Epidemiologist presented PanFlu overview to Albemarle County School Board.
  - Epidemiologist presented PanFlu overview to Charlottesville Police Dept. during one of four staff training days.
  - PanFlu educational materials delivered to Albemarle County school system for distribution to staff and students.
  - PanFlu informational packets sent to all district school superintendents, police departments, EMS units, child care facilities.
  - District will open a drive- through Dispensing Site on 10/26 in Charlottesville.
- **West Piedmont**
  - Planner and Epidemiologist attended the Emergency Preparedness Conference co-sponsored by Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital and Franklin County Department of Public Safety. The Epidemiologist gave a business- oriented Pandemic Influenza presentation to the group of 35 people representing 21 local businesses/organizations.
  - Emergency Planner taught Terrorism and Security Awareness Orientation (TSAO) Eleven district personnel were trained during these classes. More classes are scheduled.
  - Emergency Planner, Epidemiologist, and Nurse Supervisor attended the EP&R PanFlu Drill polycom update.
  - District Epidemiologist taught a CME course at Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County entitled "Grand Rounds: Seasonal Influenza." Pandemic flu information and an update were presented during the session.
  - The Franklin County Pandemic Influenza Planning Group met. Those in attendance discussed the planning that is going on within their respective organizations and shared ideas and questions regarding planning and pandemic flu. In addition, the group discussed public education and how to get the message across that personal preparation needs to start now.